

FISCAL NOTE

HB 1096 - SB 1524

March 27, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Increases the penalty from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E felony for the offense of unauthorized practice of law, punishable by fine only. Creates a civil cause of action with treble damages.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant
Increase State Revenues – Not Significant

Decrease Local Govt. Expenditures – Not Significant
Decrease Local Govt. Revenues – Not Significant

Assumptions:

- The establishment of a civil cause of action regarding the unauthorized practice of law with a two-year statute of limitations may increase the caseloads of state trial and appellate courts. This increase is estimated to be not significant.
- Any increase in state revenues from increasing the penalty is estimated to be not significant.
- There will not be a sufficient decrease in the number of misdemeanor prosecutions for local governments to experience any significant decrease in revenues or expenses.
- No increase in incarceration costs.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "W".

James W. White, Executive Director